

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

SMITH, Nick (Republican)
Representative, 7th district, Michigan
Elected 1992 to the 103d Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Addison, Michigan - 5 November 1934

Home: Addison

Marital status: Married (Bonnalyn) - 4 children

Religion: Congregationalist

Education: Michigan State Univ, BA, 1957; Univ of Delaware, MS, 1959

Military: USAF, 1959-61 (intelligence officer)

Profession: Public official

Political: MI House, 1978-82; MI Senate, 1982-92. Defeated Kenneth Proctor (I) in the Nov92 general election with 87% of the vote for the newly drawn 7th district -- most of the area had been represented by retiring Reps Carl Pursell (R) and Howard Wolpe (D). Reelected in 1998 with 58% of the vote; in 2000 with 61% of the vote; and in 2002 with 60% of the vote.

Rep Smith is a conservative. Said he was an outsider waging a battle against taxes and government regulations and vowed to take his anti-tax approach to Congress. Opposes PAC contributions and while in the Michigan Senate, introduced a bill to limit campaign contributions from PACs. Discussing the budget in Mar93, he proposed reductions in defense civilian costs and said he favored a pay freeze on all Federal employees. Appointed to the Agriculture Cmte in May94.

In the 104th Congress, left the Science Cmte and took a seat on the Agriculture Cmte. Appointed by the Speaker to chair the House Debt Limit and Misuse of Trust Funds Task Force (after SecTreasury Rubin used retirement trust funds to keep the government afloat). Report from group accused Rubin of exceeding his legal authority.

In the 105th Congress was a supporter of the bipartisan legislation to ban the national parties from receiving or spending "soft money" -- the unlimited, largely unregulated contributions that are intended for party-building activities. Smith, who does not accept contributions from political action committees, won House approval of an amendment to increase penalties for candidates who knowingly accept illegal foreign contributions.

In the 106th Congress, during debate on the budget observed that there were problems with military spending; added that because of military spending and having to support Kosovo operations, the government might have to use Social Security surplus funds before the end of the year. (CR, 12Apr99) Expressed an interest in becoming chairman of the Budget Cmte following Rep Kasich's (R-OH) retirement announcement. (BNA Insider, 15Jul99) Praising the Senate's vote on the test ban treaty, observed that in light of all the expert advice, was convinced the Senate did the country a favor by turning it down. (CR, 14Oct99)

In the 107th Congress, cosponsored legislation that would create a national military service program and require military service for all young men. In the 108th Congress, will not seek a 7th term due to term limit. May challenge Dem incumbent Stabenow for Senate seat in 2006.

Additional: Member, Air Force Caucus. Owns a 2000 acre dairy farm, raises wheat and soybeans; National Director of Energy for the US Dept of Agriculture, 1971-72.

AF Bases: W.K. Kellogg Apt (ANG)

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